

From: David C.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/19/02 9:28pm
Subject: Regarding the proposed settlement

To whomever it may concern,

As an unbiased developer who has embraced and employed both Microsoft and Sun technologies during my extensive software development career, it is my personal and professional opinion that the proposed settlement is both a misunderstanding of the nature of the damages caused by Microsoft monopoly tactics, and also a comparative slap-on-the-wrist in relation to what I consider appropriate action to be.

Contrary to popular belief, Microsoft is not the keystone of the American economy, and the economy would not suffer if Microsoft were even broken in two, as was previously proposed. Microsoft is a competition-killer. How has it responded in the face of suits declaring the bundling of Internet Explorer with the Windows operating system? It has bundled even more software for everything from CD burning to website building, embedded deeply into the core operating system. This will in result make it extremely difficult for existing vendors of such products to penetrate the market with Microsoft's mass dilution, causing a wave of small companies to capsize altogether. The ripple effect will not go unnoticed among medium and large companies, whether Microsoft rivals or not.

Curtailing Microsoft's monopolistic tactics with firm sanctions (e.g., dividing the company) would more than likely result in a *boost* to the economy and an influx of new innovations and opportunities, benefiting both the consumer and our nation's large technical development industries (programmers, architects, etc.)

Of course, this is just my humble opinion and I invite you to take it for what it is worth. Thanks for reading.

Regards,
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